

8. Clayton Place,
Kilmington Road,

London, March 29. 1861

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My dear Garrison,

On Christmas-day last you wrote me a long and deeply interesting letter inclosing in it my quarterly remittance. With grief and shame I look back upon the three months I have permitted to pass without even an acknowledgment.

I will not attempt to excuse myself but simply state the circumstances in which your letter found me and in which I have been placed ever since.

When your truly kind communication reached me I was in Yorkshire endeavouring to obtain a settlement of an account due to me by the parties whom I represented in India. I found them disposed to act towards me with great injustice. I succeeded however in obtaining by arbitration in a friendly way a written admission of their indebtedness to me legally of the sum I had

for two years and a half been vainly soliciting for a verdict on the part of those who conducted the investigation that in morality and good faith I was ~~entitled~~ entitled to much more but as any thing in addition depended upon the value which my employers chose to place upon my services they could award only that which was beyond question a legal claim. These proceedings have extended over the period during which I have remained silent and while they have been pending I have been in a state of mind which has quite disqualified me for correspondence. I am still for the present kept out of the sum which is acknowledged to be due to me and am in considerable straits in consequence. I might long ago have had recourse to a legal remedy but as I had never before sought redress of any wrong by an appeal to a civil court I abstained in this instance.

Since my severe illness my nervous susceptibility has been such that any untoward occurrence has had the most depressing influence upon my spirits & has quite unfitted me for action. I find it impossi-

ble to explain the effect which circumstances have upon me. I feel unutterably grateful to those who are in any way kind to me and have felt the goodness of my friends in America and you more above all in my inmost soul and yet have suffered the morbid humors engendered by disease to prevent me from writing to them. O my dear Garrison while you censure me as you must let me also have your pity and do not judge my heart by my actions for with my spirit & my motives bare in the sight of our Common Father I can declare the sincerity and purity of my love for you and for the noble generous & thoughtful friends whose tokens of kindness have never failed to lead me to invoke blessing on their heads. Pray ease my mind by telling me you forgive me and accept my assurance that I will at least try to do better for the future.

Though for nearly four months I have not used my pen I have read every American paper with greedy interest and am master of all the details belonging to your eventful history within that time. Your own words in the Liberator I peruse with peculiar attention and am happy to find that you possess a serene & hopeful soul in the midst of your material upheavings.

9.0.
March 29, 1861

As this letter is only intended to break the ice which has been formed during the period of my torpor I shall not indulge in any comments upon what has occurred. I hope to write you on the subject by the next mail.

While in Yorkshire I gave a lecture /at the request of the Leeds Societies/ on the American Crisis which was well received. I have delivered another in Berkshire since I got home & have several in prospect.

My general health is tolerably good but my nervous system remains very weak. During my long sojourn in the North I have experienced great kindness among old friends & have talked much in reference to the progress and prospects of the Anti-Slavery Cause in America. My hope and prayer have been & are that the South may be left to its idols and that there may be no compromise with a view to keep the border States in Union with the free Soil Republic. The Secession has given me profound satisfaction & has struck the death blow at Slavery. The South has reversed your motto & has hoisted the banner of No Union with non-slaveholders. Thank God for it.

Ever Affectionately Yours Geo Thompson